

## SCVAL General History

**1928-29 school year-** John Spaulding's wonderful *A Century of Sports in Santa Clara County* references Fremont, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Mountain View, and Santa Clara as the founding SCVAL schools. The 1929 edition of Mountain View High School's yearbook the *Blue and Gray*, refers to the Eagles playing in the SCVAL, so this is the place to start for our league.

**Original -SCVAL member schools-** Fremont, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Mountain View, and Santa Clara

**Later added-** 1935-36- Campbell, 1936-37- Gilroy, 1937-38- Washington, 1948-49- San Jose Tech, 1951-52- James Lick, 1957-58- Camden, Los Altos, and Sunnyvale

**Later exited-** 1930-31- Gilroy, 1948-49- Gilroy, 1951-52- San Jose Tech

**NOTES:** Live Oak appears in league track finals in 1929 (the 1<sup>st</sup> meet), as well as in basketball, but does not field a football team. Live Oak's last appearance in track was in the 1940 league meet.

San Jose Tech also flits in and out of league standings, but does not appear to be a full member until fall 1948.

Gilroy, a charter member, leaves the SCVAL, but then re-joins, and exits for good after 1948-49 school year.

Campbell also places in the league track meet standings; however, does not participate in the full schedule of sports until 1936-37. In current terms, all 3 schools might be considered "supplemental" members.

**1958-59 school year-** The Baby Boom growth of the Santa Clara Valley demanded the construction of new schools, and by the late 50's, the SCVAL found itself with over 10 schools in its system. The solution involved splitting the SCVAL into "West" and "East" division. It is important to point out that the "West" and "East" divisions did not necessarily exist in all sports. For example, cross-country conducted a combined league meet, while football delineated specific divisions for competition. The "East" schools, mostly from the rapidly expanding East Side Union High School District and San Jose Unified, but also included two Alameda County schools- James Logan and Fremont-Washington, and Samuel Ayer from Milpitas

**SCVAL West member schools-** Fremont, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Mountain View, Los Gatos, Campbell, Camden, Santa Clara

**Later added:** 1959-60- Buchser and Del Mar, 1960-61- Cupertino

**SCVAL East member schools-** Washington, James Lick, Andrew Hill, Lincoln, San Jose, Willow Glen, Samuel Ayer

**Later added-** 1959-60- James Logan, 1960-61- Pioneer

**1961-62 school-** For 30 years, the SCVAL hummed along as rural, small town sort of league. With a new high school opening just about every year, the league sliced itself into more and more complicated structures. This most complicated format occurred in 1961-62, when the league consisted of three divisions: north, west, and east. The impetus behind the move stemmed from 3 schools starting competition in the 61-62 school year: Saratoga, Fremont-Irvington, and Blackford. League administrators grouped the schools in a thoughtful manner by maintaining district ties and traditional rivalries. The West SCVAL comprised the Campbell schools (Camden, Blackford, Del Mar, Campbell), and the now two schools in the Los Gatos-Saratoga district. The East SCVAL remained the same with its cluster of East Side, San Jose Unified, and Southern Alameda County schools. The newest tweak concentrated on the North SCVAL, which swapped out Los Gatos and Del Mar, and then took on the new league moniker.

After just one year, the East SCVAL became a separate entity, the Mount Hamilton League, a name that still exists to this day. The West SCVAL schools lasted two years in this arrangement, eventually establishing itself as the West Valley Athletic League. By the end of the 60's Campbell would add Branham, Westmont, Prospect, and Leigh High Schools, while East Side expanded out to a district that now bears 11 high schools. The WVAL and MHAL, along with the Santa Teresa Athletic League, would eventually band together again to form the Blossom Valley Athletic League.

**North SCVAL member schools- Cupertino, Fremont, Mountain View, Los Altos, Santa Clara, Buchser, and Sunnyvale**

**Later added: Awalt- 1962-63**

**East SCVAL member schools- Washington, James Lick, Andrew Hill, Lincoln, San Jose, Willow Glen, Samuel Ayer, Pioneer, Irvington, and James Logan (after 1961-62, the league re-named the Mount Hamilton Athletic League)**

**West SCVAL member schools- Los Gatos, Saratoga, Del Mar, Campbell, Blackford, and Camden**

**Later added: Leigh- 1962-63 (the West SCVAL leaves the SCVAL in spring 1963, and rebrands itself the West Valley Athletic League)**

**1963-64 school year-** After a handful of years as a "directional" league, first as the West SCVAL, and then the North SCVAL, the SCVAL returns to its roots as a stand-alone league. Homestead and Wilcox joined as new members of this new 10 school configuration. This particular model would remain intact for the next 7 years.

**SCVAL member schools- Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Awalt, Los Altos, Buchser, Santa Clara, Wilcox**

**Later added: 1967-68- Lynbrook and Peterson**

**1970-71 school year-** As the SCVAL grew in the late 50's, member schools broke off into leagues that eventually became the West Valley Athletic League, and the Mount Hamilton League. Throughout the 60's the league still continued to add schools, and when the decade ended, the SCVAL included 12 schools, representing 3 school districts. In an era, when teams played significantly less contests, a double round robin schedule proved too much for many of the sports.

For the next 4 years, the SCVAL divided into separate divisions, with the Fremont schools in the American Division, and the Santa Clara and MV-LA sites in the National Division. League playoffs concluded each team sport season, with the winners earning the league's lone qualifying spot in the CCS playoffs. The football championship games occurred on Thanksgiving Day, and provided local prep fans with competitive and thrilling games (aside from the 1<sup>st</sup> game, a Los Altos rout of Homestead).

**American Division member schools: Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Lynbrook, and Sunnyvale**

**Later added: Monta Vista-1970-71**

**National Division member schools: Buchser, Peterson, Wilcox, Santa Clara, Mountain View, Awalt, and Los Altos**

**1974-75 school year-** After a 4 year experiment of a league split into 2 divisions, the 6 FUHSD schools withdrew from the SCVAL umbrella and formed the Fremont Athletic League. Fremont High School, an original member would compete for the first time outside the formal SCVAL structure. The 1974-75 school year also saw a number of girls teams play official league schedules, and not just informal contests against one another.

**FAL member schools: Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Monta Vista, Lynbrook, and Sunnyvale**

**SCVAL member schools: Buchser, Peterson, Wilcox, Santa Clara, Mountain View, Awalt, and Los Altos**

**1976-77 school year-** Because the Fremont Athletic League, added a new, non-FUHSD member, the league changed its name to the more generic, De Anza Athletic League. The SCVAL also added 3 Palo Alto Unified schools to its membership, bringing its total to an even 10 (up from 7). Gunn, Palo Alto, and Cubberley exited the South Peninsula Athletic league, and joined a league which diverted their focus from the mid-peninsula to the western side of the Santa Clara Valley.

**DAAL member schools: Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Monta Vista, Lynbrook, Sunnyvale, and Saratoga**

**SCVAL member schools Buchser, Peterson, Santa Clara, Wilcox, Mountain View, Awalt Los Altos, Cubberley, Gunn, and Palo Alto**

**Later exited: Cubberley-1979-80**

**1981-82 school year-** School closures decimate the Santa Clara Valley, thus wreaking havoc on both the DAAL and the SCVAL. The Fremont Union High School District closed 25 year old Sunnyvale High School, while Mountain View-Los Altos and Santa Clara Unified completed massive changes to their secondary schools. The Castro Street Mountain View campus closed, and the district transferred the historic, city based name to the Awalt site. The Eagle mascot and school colors moved to Los Altos, with the baby blue and gold Knights, converting to the blue and gray Eagles.

On the Santa Clara side, after barely 10 years as a comprehensive high school, Santa Clara Unified rebranded Peterson High School as Peterson Junior High, and similar to MV-LA, the district also swapped mascots, school colors, and site names. The downtown Santa Clara campus, also transformed into a junior high, taking on the Buchser name. The Benton Street Buchser High School inherited the name and school colors of Santa Clara High, but kept the Bruins mascot, ultimately retiring the Panthers. Wilcox, mostly left out of the shuffling, did see its school colors and mascot change to black/gold and the Chargers respectively. Losing two schools from their league slate, the SCVAL adds Milpitas to their ranks. This SCVAL line-up would remain the same until 1993-94.

**DAAL member schools- Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Monta Vista, Lynbrook, St. Francis (girls only) and Saratoga**

**Later added- Los Gatos- 1988-89**

**SCVAL member schools- Mountain View, Los Altos, Santa Clara, Wilcox, Palo Alto, Gunn, and Milpitas**

**1992-93 school year-** Due to the closure of Branham and Blackford High Schools, the DAL and West Valley Athletic League form a supplemental league. The supplemental league dabbles with the concept of "A" and "B" divisions dictated not be strength of program, but more so school population. With Cupertino and Saratoga seeing enrollment hover around 1,000 students each, administrators and athletic directors believed school population dictated success, rather than strength of program and/or coaching.

**DAAL/WVAL member schools- Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Monta Vista, Lynbrook, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Del Mar, Leigh, Prospect, and Westmont.**

**SCVAL member schools remain the same.**

**1993-94 school year-** After one year of the De Anza Athletic League forming a “supplemental league” with the West Valley Athletic League, the DAAL schools merge with the Santa Clara Valley Schools to form a two tiered league with an “A” division and a “B” division. The “A” division retained the De Anza name from the now defunct DAAL, while the “B” division was dubbed, the El Camino Division- a reference to the thoroughfare that runs through most of the towns in the new league. Each sport developed their own by-laws to determine movement between the two divisions. Tony Nunes, former Sunnyvale High School and De Anza College basketball coach, served as the 1<sup>st</sup> commissioner.

**Member schools: Cupertino, Fremont, Homestead, Monta Vista, Lynbrook, Wilcox, Santa Clara, Palo Alto, Gunn, Mountain View, Los Altos, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Milpitas, and St. Francis (girls only)**

**Later exited- 2001-02- St. Francis-**The Lancers move from the SCVAL into the WCAL, as the WCAL finally established a girl’s league to coincide with the successful boy’s division. Various schools have joined the league as supplemental members, for specific sports, mostly in aquatics, wrestling, and lacrosse,

#### **Potential FAQ’s**

##### **What about pre SCVAL female athletics?**

A note on the emergence of girls sports in the SCVAL region. Girls participated in sports for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The model most often used in the 1930’s to the 1950’s were “Play Days”, which generally included between two to four schools. Softball, basketball, volleyball, swimming, and tennis formed the core sports of the Play Day’s. In addition to sports, the Play Day’s also emphasized social interactions, as singing, dancing, and eating all played a big part of the festivities.

In the early 1970’s, more organized competition evolved, with schools facing each other in official schedules, with acknowledged champions. The FUHSD schools formed a six team circuit, in the traditional sports we see now (volleyball, tennis, field hockey, basketball, softball, swimming). This arrangement ceased in the 1976-77 school year, when the DAAL officially offered a league slate for girls. Yearbooks from the FUHSD schools (where I work), are the only record I have of the pre-DAAL competition. From my research, the SCVAL began their league play a year earlier, in 1975-76 campaign.

The local papers barely acknowledged girls sports, so the late 70’s/early 80’s champion and MVP lists are not entirely complete. Additions or corrections would be appreciated: [andy\\_walczak@fuhdsd.org](mailto:andy_walczak@fuhdsd.org)

##### **Why Include the DAAL?**

The inclusion of the DAAL in the history of the SCVAL acknowledges the historical connection between the FUHSD schools and the SCVAL. Fremont is a charter member of the SCVAL, and the additional FUHSD schools remained under the SCVAL banner until the 1974-75 school year, when the FAL formed as the third off-shoot of the SCVAL. The FAL and later DAAL, were both separate entities with their own by-laws and commissioners; however, because they rejoined the SCVAL in 1993-94, I included them in this history. The Mount Hamilton and West Valley leagues originated in the SCVAL, but ultimately merged with the Santa Teresa Athletic League to form the three-tiered BVAL.